





1913 ~ 1966

History of RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH Merry Hill, North Carolina



January 8, 1967



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History of Riverside Baptist Church

Riverside Baptist Church was organized on Saturday afternoon, September 13, 1913. This organizational meeting was held in the Mizelle School House located across the road from the existing church property. Rev. Sam B. Barnes and Rev. J. O. Alderman were the ministers, assisted by the following brethren from neighboring churches: Whittie Hughes, J. D. Evans, Thad A. Perry, J. M. Perry, J. R. Daniels, and E. J. Daniels from Bethany Baptist Church; J. R. Byrum and J. H. Lawrence from Ross Baptist Church. Rev. Barnes read a few verses from the 2nd chapter of Acts and Rev. Alderman led in prayer.

On motion by Rev. Alderman, Rev. Barnes was elected chairman of the presbytery and Rev. Alderman, clerk. Following organization of the presbytery, Chairman Barnes called for reading of the letters of those brethren and sisters who proposed to organize a church. The following 38 persons were from Capeharts Baptist Church: S. B. Adams, Fannie H. Adams, Mollie C. Adams, John W. Byrd, Hattie J. Byrd, Martha J. Byrum, John H. Cobb, Thomas Cullipher, Sophia Cullipher, J. E. Dunlow, Martha A. Dunlow, Celia A. Dunlow, Ida B. Dunlow, S. B. Farless, Priscilla Farless, Moses E. Frances, Sarah A. Frances, Sallie Lawrence, Ernest Lawrence, James Lee, James H. Lee, Grover C. Lee, J. W. Lee, Jennie Lee, J. W. Miller, Laura Miller, Wayland Miller, Fannie A. Miller, N. J. Miller, John C. Miller, Lucy V. Miller, Ethel Miller, J. P. Mizelle, Gladys O. Mizelle, James T. Mizelle, Williams Williams, Williams T. Williams, Fannie J. Williams, H. H. Farless came from Bethany Baptist Church. From Colerain Baptist Church came Cullen C. Holder, Sophia A. Holder, Cullen B. Holder, and Grace Holder.

The first board of deacons was composed of three members: S. B. Adams from Capeharts, H. H. Farless from Bethany, and Cullen C. Holder from Colerain. The first order of business was to name the new church. With the location only a few miles from the Chowan River, the name "Riverside" was chosen.

Rev. J. O. Alderman was called to serve as pastor for the remainder of 1913. Rev. Sam B. Barnes was then invited to serve as pastor beginning January 1, 1914, and served until December 30, 1918. During his pastorate the main sanctuary was constructed. The building was constructed on a cooperative basis with the members cutting and hauling logs and doing much of the carpentry work, thus not requiring much cash.

Rev. J. Herman Barnes became pastor on February 1, 1919. Riverside joined with Ross, Greens Cross, and Bethany Churches to form a church field at that time. These four churches remained a field until Riverside withdrew in 1931. During the early pastorate of Rev. Barnes, he recognized the need for Sunday School classrooms and shared his vision with the church. On April 5, 1919, a motion was made by S. B. Adams, and adopted, to proceed with construction of the classrooms. The project was completed during the pastorate of Rev. Barnes.

Rev. Alonzo Finch was called to the field of churches and began his ministry on December 1, 1923. It was during his pastorate that the debt on the church was retired. In 1926 and 1927, the members pledged peanut and cotton acreage. This pledged amount was enough to clear the indebtedness. On Homecoming Day 1927, the event was celebrated and the note burned. Rev. Barnes was invited to deliver the dedication sermon. Rev. Finch resigned in November 1928.

Rev. H. G. Bryant succeeded Rev. Finch and served until December 1, 1930.

On October 11, 1930, Riverside withdrew from the other churches of the field to form a new field with Colerain. Rev. E. Y. Poole of the Colerain Church served as pastor of the new church field for nine months. On September 28, 1931, the two churches called Rev. R. L. Bolton as pastor. His work was terminated on December 30, 1933. Rev. L. M. Dixon was called as pastor of the field on October 13, 1934. His ministry commenced on January 1, 1935, and continued for seven years, terminating January 1941. Rev. D. F. Bobbit was called as his successor, beginning his work January 1941 and ending on December 30, 1943. At this time Colerain decided to go full time. Riverside extended a call to Rev. A. P. Mustian of Mars Hill effective February 1, 1944.

During the pastorate of Rev. Mustian, the church came in possession of one-third interest of the J. T. Newbern estate designated by the will for improvements of the church and grounds. The greater part of these funds were used to insulate the walls, install a heating system, and re-floor the church building. The balance was later applied toward the parsonage.

The Riverside School House and grounds were purchased from the Bertie County Board of Commissioners on November 7, 1948, by Mr. W. R. Lawrence and presented to the church as a gift. The Church proceeded with the construction of the present parsonage. Rev. Mustian closed his pastorate on May 30, 1949.

On November 21, 1948, the Church formed a field with Merry Hill Baptist Church. A call was extended to Rev. R. Tom Greene of Louisville, Kentucky, as pastor. Rev. Greene and his family moved into the new parsonage on June 1, 1949. Rev. Greene launched into the work of the Church with vigor and enthusiasm. Under his ministry and leadership, the Church expanded in many ways. The membership increased by more than one hundred persons with Sunday School and training union setting new records.

(Mr. S. B. Adams researched and compiled the above historical data. He was a charter member, charter deacon, and a lifelong servant of our Lord, this Church, and our community.)

In 1951, Riverside sponsored a Mission Sunday School under the direction of Rev. Greene which grew into Edgewood Baptist Church. New Sunday School rooms were added to Riverside Church, and the Church went full-time with Rev. Green as pastor. He resigned January 24, 1952.

Rev. Robert L. Trexler followed Rev. Greene as pastor and served from June 1951 through October 1953. During his pastorate, Family Night was started for the meetings of all WMU organizations and the Brotherhood. The old Riverside School House was remodeled into a fellowship hall.

Under the leadership of Rev. Eugene E. Johns, pastor from February 1954 to July 1959, fifty members were added to the Church by baptism. A Building Fund was started and an annual Building Fund Day was set to be observed.

The Building Fund continued to grow during the pastorates of Rev. Joseph R. Puett (December 1959 – February 1961) and Rev. L. R. Campbell (1961-1965).

On January 13, 1963, Mr. W. R. Lawrence offered a gift of \$20,000 for construction of a new church building. His kind offer was accepted joyfully. Mr. Lawrence gave \$5000 when the contract was signed and pledged \$5000 a year for the next three years. He died before fulfilling his promise, but his widow, Mrs. Nola Lawrence, gave the balance to the Church on February 11, 1966.

Riverside celebrated its 50th Anniversary on November 10, 1963.

Riverside was without a pastor from June 1965 to June 1966, but the new church building was started and the work progressed steadily.

Our building program was in full swing when Rev. Coleman E. Thomas became our pastor in June 1966. Church members donated new pews. Members of the Building Committee and others financed the purchase and installation of carpet for the sanctuary. New pulpit furniture was donated. The Martha Sunday School class expressed a desire to use the old pulpit furniture in their new classroom.

Rev. Thomas conducted the first service in the new building on January 8, 1967, and the new church building was dedicated to the service of our Lord. The grandchildren of Rev. Alonzo Finch presented a new Pulpit Bible in his memory on that day.

In 1968, Riverside honored Clarence W. Williams with a gift of two silver candelabra in appreciation of his services as Sunday School superintendent for twenty years (1948-1968). Mr. Williams continued to serve

as superintendent until October 1983—a total of 35 years. Much of that time he also served as chairman of the Board of Deacons.

Rev. Thomas terminated his pastorate at Riverside on August 30, 1970. After the resignation of Rev. Adron A. Modlin, pastor from February 1971 through November 1972, the Church was without a pastor until January 1974. Riverside ordained Tim Mizelle for full-time gospel ministry 1973.

Rev. Ronald L. Richardson served as pastor from January 1974 until June 1977. He organized a Church Council and helped free our Church from debt. A note-burning service was held on November 16, 1975. The tennis courts were constructed during his pastorate.

Rev. Donald L. Clinton began his ministry with Riverside on June 25, 1978. Several additions and improvements were made during his pastorate. A steeple was installed in 1980. Cushions for the pews were ordered in 1982. A fellowship hall with a complete kitchen and restrooms was annexed on the south side of the church in 1983. The old Riverside School House was demolished. Two acres of land adjoining the church property were acquired to enlarge the cemetery and make a ball field. A new piano for the sanctuary was purchased in January 1984 with a donation from Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Finch and additional donations from the church family. The Church licensed Woody Copeland to preach on July 21, 1985. Rev. Clinton retired in October 1985.

The parsonage was completely renovated in 1985 prior to the arrival of the new pastor, Rev. James Buchanan. Rev. Buchanan commenced his pastorate on January 1, 1986, and served through December 1987. During this time Diann and Libby Jones presented a ceramic nativity set in memory of their parents, Aubrey and Edith Byrum (December 1986). Roger Cullipher presented to the church a new Baldwin organ as a gift from his late wife, Thenia H. Cullipher, on May 31, 1987. A special memorial and dedication service was held in commemoration on June 28, 1987. A tower to house the bell from the original church was completed on July 1, 1987. Fifty new hymnals were given in memory of Lloyd Finch and George Pratt by Lynette Finch and Rhodes Pratt.

Rev. Greg DeMarco, U. S. Navy chaplain, became the Interim Pastor on April 3, 1988. Repairs to the roof of the church and the ceiling of the sanctuary were completed in October 1988. The 75th anniversary of the Church (September 12, 1988) was celebrated in conjunction with the Christmas program on December 21, 1989.

Rev. Charles J. Hulin, III, assumed pastoral duties on March 12, 1989, and served until his retirement in September 1994. The first church constitution and bylaws were adopted on March 19, 1989. Later that year, a storage building was erected, improvements to the parsonage completed, and a new well dug.

A number of projects were completed during the final decade of the 20th Century. In 1990, construction of the children's playground was completed, a new air conditioning system for the church was installed, and markers were purchased for two unmarked graves. A recreation shelter was annexed to the Fellowship Hall in 1991. Renovations were made on the tennis courts, parsonage, and church.

In 1990, Bennie Myers, an official for the AOC Records Management Branch of the U.S. Capitol, presented to the Church a U.S. flag that had previously flown over the Capitol.

(The history from 1951 through 1993 was compiled and written by Rhodes H. Pratt and James N. Matthews.)

The 80th anniversary of the church was celebrated on September 12, 1993. Three hundred forty-one (341) persons signed the guest register on that day.

Rev. Dennis J. Conner began his ministry on January 1, 1995. During his pastorate bequests were received from the estates of B. C. (Cohen) Evans and Dorsey L. Miller. Rev. Conner presided over the ordination service of Woody Copeland in June 1997. He resigned in May 1998 to accept a pastorate in his native city of Charlotte.

Rev. William A. (Al) Jarrell was extended a call in August 1999, and commenced his ministry on October 3 1999.

Gifts and memorial gifts during the decade of the 1990's included the following: \$5000 from Darrell Adams toward renovation of the tennis courts; new refrigerator for parsonage donated by Leonard and Agnes Farless; acknowledgement of bedroom suite donated for parsonage in 1950 by Mrs. Joe Miller; display cases in memory of U.S. Hassell by Elizabeth Hassell and sons; TV/VCR unit purchased with \$600 contribution by Lynette Finch and remaining \$600 from church family; ceiling fans for sanctuary given by Tom and Libby Jones, Robert and Diann Jones, Frances Byrum, Woody Copeland, Roger Cullipher, B. C. Evans, Lynette Finch, Richard and Sarah Lynn Harrell, Ruth Matthews, Rogeania Hughes Rollert, Raleigh and Sue Baker, Mack and Mildred Williams; furnishings for reception room on south side of the vestibule donated in memory of Leonard Farless by his family; furnishings for the reception room on the north side given in memory of Roger Cullipher by his family.

The Church was incorporated in 1996 to be recognized as a legal entity and for protection of the membership and elected officers.

At the century's end, Riverside Baptist Church marked 87 years of providing spiritual nourishment and divine guidance to its fold. Through prosperity and adversity, war and peace, fair weather and foul, Riverside had strengthened the faith and inspired the lives of many men, women, and children. Riverside suffered with its members through the Great Depression, two world wars, the wars in Korea and Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf War. The Church, thankful to have escaped major damage from the brutal forces of Hurricane Hazel in 1954 and Hurricane Floyd in 1999, sought to provide solace and assistance to those less fortunate.

Riverside embraced the arrival of 21st Century with a spirit of renewed hope and anticipation. Plans were developing for the 90th anniversary celebration in 2003. Furnishings for the pastor's study were presented in memory of Troy Perry by his family. A carport was installed at the parsonage, courtesy of an anonymous donor. Lynette Finch gave the Church its first computer and printer. Two hundred new hymnals were purchased from memorial contributions in memory of Katherine Farless and Spencer Adams. New picnic tables were given in memory of Hezzie, Nellie Mae, and Billy Mizelle, Lucas Lloyd Perry, Lloyd and Fannie Simmons Finch, Glenn and Louise Williams, Myrtle Adams, and Milton Cullipher by their families.

Following the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on 9/11/01, Riverside offered numerous prayers and moments of silence for the victims and their families, our country and leaders, and the thousands of citizens and rescue workers who struggled to restore the nation's security and faith in humanity.

In 2002, the Church pledged \$1000 each year for five years to the Wycliffe Bible ministry. Woody and Beverly Baker, Wycliffe missionaries, both have family roots at Riverside. Douglas (Duck) Williams was presented a plaque on Homecoming Day 2002 in honor of 35 years of faithful service as custodian. Kevin Copeland was granted a license to preach in November 2002.

Saturday, September 13, 2003, marks the 90th anniversary of Riverside Baptist Church. A celebration and Homecoming is planned for the following day.

A copy of all official church documents is housed in Whitaker Library, Chowan College.

Rev. 8/2003

RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

Anecdotal Dateline

(selected wording/spelling as appears in minutes)

Sept. 12, 1913	Organized in Mizelle Schoolhouse.
Oct. 11, 1913	Rev. J. O. Alderman's sermon: Matthew 6. Called as pastor for remainder of year. Quarterly meetings: roll called, subscriptions taken. Must be present or petition for excuse.
Nov. 8, 1913	Received in fellowship with West Chowan Baptist Association.
Dec. 13, 1913	Sophia J. Cullipher to collect from sisters for pastor's salary.
January 1914	Voted Rev. Sam B. Barnes, pastor. Salary \$150/year. Vote to be taken each year to retain pastor or call new one.
Feb. 14, 1914	Property deed recorded with Bertie County Register of Deeds, B180/141. Cost: \$1.25.
Feb. 21, 1914	Voted to buy one dozen song books at a cost of \$5.
April 25, 1914	Building Committee report: "We will have to get to work on church building ourselves To gather after conference to consider a day to commence."
May 23, 1914	Collection taken to pay for song books; amount collected \$2.12. Appointed Tuesday and Wednesday of next week to work on church building.
June 1914	Silver communion set presented by Sisters of Colerain Church. Letter withdrawn for disorderly conduct (at member's request). Collection for poor – amount \$.53. (This collection taken after each quarterly meeting ranges from \$.50 to \$.75.)
Aug. 22, 1914	Voted to board workman while at work on building.
Dec. 22, 1917	Voted to give Rev. Barnes money for convention as Christmas present.
Jan. 24, 1918	Added to rules a resolution stating "we shall have a Deacon's Conference once a year to see after church business and fix salaries."
Feb. 23, 1918	Sexton elected for a salary of \$15/year.
April 27, 1918	Not to mark (absent) those members gone to France (World War I).
July 27, 1918	Brother reported for profanity" begging to be excused." Same being granted.
Sept. 14, 1918	Vote taken to see if we elect our present pastor or reject him. Vote stands 3 for, 19 against. Brother appointed to "wait on pastor and notify him of action."
Jan. 4, 1919	1,000,000 campaign (convention-wide) for Christian Education. Offering to be taken up at next Sunday meeting.
Feb. 1, 1919	Pledges taken for \$1,000,000 campaign. Rev. J. Herman Barnes' first meeting.

March 1, 1919	Remarks on rebuilding Riverside Baptist Church.
May 3, 1919	Committee to build classrooms.
May 31, 1919	Brother reported for disorderly conduct. Name withdrawn from church. Benches complete and in church.
July 5, 1919	Order 4 dozen song books. Motion for a brother to be granted a standing excuse was lost.
Sept. 6, 1919	Motion to call present pastor Rev. J. Herman Barnes was unanimous. "Give him a definite call and a raise of \$50 to remain next year."
Nov. 1, 1919	Sexton hired for 1920. Salary \$25/year.
Jan. 3, 1920	Budget system of taking collection adopted. Financial secretary elected to keep record of all mission money.
Jan. 31, 1920	"Draw money from treasury to pay for windows."
March 5, 1920	Two brothers appointed to see members before "we drop name."
April 5, 1920	Motion made to allow pastor to select a preacher for "protracted meeting."
Oct. 1, 1920	Board of Deacons brought up names for disorderly conduct. One made a confession and was excused. Brothers appointed as a committee to see two other brothers. Voted to raise pastor's salary to \$500.
Nov. 6, 1920	"that it be put into hands of Deacons to purchase additional land to church property."
Nov. 6, 1920 Dec. 4, 1920	
	property."
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May 6, 1922	Member asked to be excused for drinking. "On motion" he was excused; member restored.
July 1, 1922	Committee appointed to raise money to pay for cement blocks. Amount raised today - \$22.50. Letter of dismission requested"Same was granted if he pay his back dues."
Sept. 30, 1922	Motion for church roll for expenses be left the same as last year. (Seems that church financial secretary called the roll for pastor's salary and church expenses. Members paid subscriptions; set amount marked each time paid.)
Dec. 2, 1922	Motion to take collection to pay for cement blocks. Some paid.
May 4, 1923	Charges made by Board of Deacons to members for profane and offensive language in the presence of ladies and on a Public Road. Also, "Respectfully recommend that all members who have engaged in dancing (contrary to the Rules of Decorum of the Church) be given an opportunity to make proper confession and apologize to this church directly or through the pastor or any of the Board of Deacons on or before the next quarterly meeting. Those who fail to avail themselves of this privilege, it will be necessary to read their names out in conferencea committee be appointed to 'wait on' themalso reprove those of our members who have had dances in their homes and those who encourage it by their presence."
May 6, 1923	Rev. J. Herman Barnes offered his resignation as pastor at the end of the year.
May 31, 1923	Deacons reported talking to members who confessed and asked for forgiveness. Motion made to excuse them.
June 2, 1923	Motion made and carried that the Brothers and Sisters reported for dancing be excused.
June 30, 1923	Motion made and carried to raise pastor's salary by 25 per cent next year. Financial secretary to call roll for the next two meetingsafterward a committee to be appointed to see members who did not subscribe.
Oct. 7, 1923	Church conference called "Brother A. Finch – unanimous."
Dec. 2, 1923	Final report on Building Fund given by Rev. Barnes.
Jan. 5, 1924	Preaching by pastor, Rev. Alonzo Finch.
April 5, 1924	"we will take a free will offering to help pastor pay expenses to Southern Baptist Convention and we make an offering in the near future to help colored church at Ashland." (Ashland Church was destroyed by fire in March 1924.)
May 5, 1924	Committee appointed to see Delinquent Members.
Nov. 1, 1924	Motion made we call our pastor Rev. Alonzo Finch indefinitely. Vote was unanimous.
Jan. 4, 1925	Committee report on church cotton: "there being 10 bales ginnedsale of cotton not completecommittee continued. Report on pastor's salary for 1924: there being a deficiencyasked to collect all we could.

Jan. 31, 1925	Report on pastor's salary – same was paid. Report on 1925 subscriptions \$325 for current expenses; \$327.95 for missionsSee members of church concerning planting an acre to help pay off church debt.
Feb. 25, 1925	1924 church indebtedness: collected \$2353.62; interest paid \$365.74; one note of \$1900; balance in bank \$87.88.
April 5, 1925	"take a subscription from the Sisters of this church for church indebtedness."
June 6, 1925	"report that Sisters of this church subscribed to date \$80 for Building Fund."
Aug. 1, 1925	"appoint 4th Sunday in August to take census."
Oct. 3, 1925	Baptism at Mount Gould Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Sixteen baptized.
June 5, 1926	Church indebtedness \$3700.
July 3, 1926	"up to date pledged 13 acres of cotton and peanuts and \$160 in cashMembers absent for 6 meetings and send no excuse shall be dropped from church listCharges against members for walking disorderly, drinking, and profanity."
Nov. 6, 1926	Motion to have Thanksgiving Service at 9 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day.
Dec. 4, 1926	Report on church indebtednessdecision by committee "to collect all we can, see what balance due is and then lay plans for the future."
Jan. 1, 1927	Church forgave member for his past absences and conduct. Collection for church debt \$600 for 1926. By motion "we appoint committee to apportion church debt among members."
Feb. 5, 1927	Report on church debt: collected to date \$700.
April 2, 1927	By motion, collection for Building Fund to be completed in 2 months.
June 6, 1927	By motion, we have a Rally Day first Sunday in December. All members asked to pay subscriptions on church debt.
Nov. 5, 1927	Sexton's salary \$80.
Dec. 3, 1927	By motion "name of each member called; each answer to his or her name and bring forward their subscription to pay on church debt.
Dec. 31, 1927	Vote of thanks given Homecoming Day committee"it being a great success." Church debt paid and note burned. By motion church adopts assessment plan of collecting funds for church expenses."
June 2, 1928	Rev. Finch offered his resignation to take effect at end of year. On motion "we take a collection on Sunday to help pay pastor's expenses to Baptist World Alliance in Toronto."
1 st Sun., Aug. 1928	Call conference – Rev. H. G. Bryant called to preach next year. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen song books ordered.
	No further minutes until November 2, 1929.

Nov. 2, 1929	Rev. H. G. Bryant's resignation received.
November 1929	Call conference – Rev. E. Y. Poole of Colerain called. Meeting days changed to $2^{\rm nd}$ Sunday.
Jan. 11, 1930	Motion carried to adopt a budget system. Deacons appointed to see delinquents and collect their dues. On motion we have conference once a quarter instead of once a month.
Jan. 30, 1931	Motion "we withdraw from fellowship one of our members"
Sept. 28, 1931	Church accepted motion of Pulpit Committee and Rev. R. L. Bolton was called as pastor.
Nov. 15, 1933	Pastor Bolton nominated and defeated.
April 7, 1934	Brother Berryman, a lay member from Edenton, called to preach once a month. (Would come over by boat to Mt. Gould landing.)
Oct. 31, 1934	Rev. L. M. Dixon given unanimous call on circuit with Colerain.
Jan. 12, 1935	Adopt a budget system for raising money to meet church expenses and use pledge cards.
April 13, 1936	Delinquent members who have not answered to their names in 12 months to be seen by pastor.
July 13, 1936	Six members withdrawn from church for non-support and/or profanity, intoxication.
July 10, 1937	Members appointed to see another member concerning the life he was living.
Jan. 8, 1938	Committee appointed to see same member concerning life he was living.
Oct. 9, 1938	Two brothers asked to see two other members concerning life they were living.
Jan. 7, 1939	"One member who was seen stated he was not ready to do better and asked his name be dropped Some said not to drop his name until he could be seen again. Another man came to conference and said he had no reason for drifting away and was willing to come back and do better."
2 nd Sat., May 1939	Call conference: report on delinquentssome stated that they "knew they had not been living right, but would try to do better and wanted the church to excuse themOthers stated there had been no change brought over them and asked the church to withdraw fellowship from them."Motion to excuse those who asked forgiveness and withdraw others from fellowship. More committees formed for purpose of visiting in the community"asking that they come to Sunday School and church."
July 8, 1939	Average Sunday School attendance for quarter: 74. Member dropped.
Jan. 6, 1940	Delinquent members discussed. Motion made to see them in person. Motion made to make up a list "of the ones who fell short in church attendance and helping support the church in any wayA committee to talk with them and bring back a written report as why he or she had fallen down in church support and use the writings for future use.

Jan. 11, 1941	Treasurer reported 1047.10 had been paid out leaving 6.34 in red. Deacons to work on every member canvas.
3 rd Sun., Nov. 1941	Resignation of Rev. L. M. Dixon to be in effect last of Dec. 1941.
Dec. 7, 1941	Rev. D. F. Bobbitt gave trial sermon. (The attack on Pearl Harbor occurred at 8:00 a.m. Hawaii time $-$ 1:30 p.m. EST.)
Dec. 14, 1941	Rev. Bobbitt extended a call by "unanimous vote." Budget adopted as follows: pastor's salary raised from \$450 to \$600 yearly; missions around \$400; janitor's salary raised from \$75 to \$81 yearly.
May 24, 1942	Treasurer stated that 75 per cent of members were working together in helping support the church.
September 1943	Rev. Bobbitt submitted resignation.
1st Sun., Nov. 1943	Rev. A. P. Mustian extended a call unanimous vote.
February 1944	Rev. Mustian commenced pastorate.
1 st Sun., Jan. 1945	Budget adopted raise pastor's salary from \$600 to \$750; local work \$1118; pledged \$600 to Cooperative Program with other gifts to missions. Total budget accepted, \$1375.
Feb. 2, 1947	Newbern estate turned over \$8729.41 to Building Fund to be used "to beautify the church" as stated in will.
Oct. 17, 1948	Church letter read: value of property increased from \$8000 to \$12,000; \$6700.64 for local work; \$5410 for church repairs (from Newbern estate); \$1892.12 for mission work.
Nov. 17, 1948	Mr. W. R. Lawrence presented to the church a deed for Riverside School and 2 acres of land he had purchased from County Commissioners "to give as a gift to Riverside Baptist Church."
Nov. 21, 1948	Motion to proceed on building plans for pastorium, a 7- room house, for about \$6000.
January 1949	Committee appointed to secure pastor for Riverside and Merry Hill. Motion made to buy 75 new Broadman Hymnals.
Feb. 13, 1949	Janitor's salary raised from \$15 to \$20 per month.
April 17, 1949	Church extended call to Rev. R. Tom Greene to begin June 1st.
Aug. 21, 1949	Report: cost of parsonage \$7746.09. Balance due \$3094.37. Voted to set 3 rd Sunday in October of each year to raise building funds.
Sept. 11, 1949	Revival: best in history of church. Rev. R. Tom Greene, pastor, held the meeting. 43 by baptism, 6 by letter, and 3 by statement.
Oct. 12, 1949	Mrs. R. T. Greene appointed to "do some music work with Young People."
Nov. 20, 1949	Pastor's salary raised from \$1200 to \$1500 yearly.

March 19, 1950	Sunday School report: 151 new members in 5 months; total Sunday School membership is 271; average attendance 152.
Aug. 30, 1950	Sunday School has 286 enrolled; average attendance 191. Training Union has 138 enrolled; average attendance 123.
Oct. 12, 1950	Deed for one acre of land back of church $$ gift from S. B. Adams and N. J. Miller.
Oct 16, 1950	Church letter reports: 305 on Sunday School roll; 339 church membership; value of church \$22,000; value of parsonage \$8500.
Jan. 1, 1951	Sunday School has 285 enrolled; BTU 159.
Feb. 18, 1951	Church roll to be divided into active and inactive.
March 18, 1951	Set aside 1:00 this week as a time of prayerbell to be rung for 5 minuteseveryone to stop and pray.
June 1951	Motion to build educational annex to provide sufficient rooms for Sunday SchoolThat it be built on a cooperative basis with members giving labor and materials with a day set aside to raise \$2000 after crops are harvested.
3 rd Sun., Oct. 1951	Homecoming Day"to dedicate to God the parsonage, the old School Building, the 3 acres of ground and the remainder of the permanent improvement."
Jan. 20, 1952	Church on recommendation of Board of Deacons voted to Call Rev. Greene as full-time pastor salary \$3200.
Jan. 24, 1952	Rev. Greene resigned to take up Association Mission work.
Feb. 17, 1952	Fred Cullipher granted a license to preach.
April 15, 1952	Board of Deacons and Board of Trustees, after careful and prayerful consideration, made the following recommendations:
	 Parsonage be renovated and painted on inside. Sink a deep well on a 50/50 basis with D. W. Miller. Borrow money from bank to pay for above recommendations and pay off balance on addition to church.
	Motion passed. Pulpit committee recommended extending a call to Rev. Robert T. Trexler salary \$3200. Unanimous vote.
May 18, 1952	Report: total cost of new Sunday School rooms \$4435.61.
Feb. 1, 1953	Church free of debt.
March 15, 1953	Deacons recommend that the Boys Committee of the Brotherhood be placed in charge of building a ball field back of the school house approved.
July 5, 1953	Silver offering plates presented in memory of Wayland Miller by his family.
July 19, 1953	Deacons recommend that outside of parsonage be painted approved.

Sept. 20, 1953	Junior and senior ushers appointed.
Oct. 18, 1953	Brother Trexler having resigned the work as pastor the previous Sunday"a motion was made to accept his resignation" – carried unanimously. Pulpit committee elected to secure a pastor.
Feb. 24, 1954	Unanimous vote to call Rev. Eugene E. Johns as pastor at a salary of \$3400.
Oct. 16, 1956	Building fund collection \$2020.23, "for which pastor expressed his deepest appreciation."
July 24, 1956	Long Range Building Program: collecting money and pledges for a 5-step building program.
Aug. 19, 1956	"Study possibilities of organizing a choir and proceed to do so at once."
July 20, 1958	Building Fund to date \$12,258.56.
Sept. 21, 1958	Budget approved pastor's salary \$3600 plus up to \$400 for parsonage utilities. All over \$400 pastor will pay.
July 5, 1959	Rev. Johns resigned to begin work on Aug. 5 in New London, NC.
July 12, 1959	Pulpit committee appointed to secure a pastor with the salary the same as for Rev. Johns - \$4000.
Aug. 23, 1959	Pulpit Committee endorsed a candidate for pastor. Ballot failed to get 75 per cent favorable vote. Committee to continue effort to secure a pastor.
December 1959	Rev. Joseph R. Puett commenced pastorate.
Jan. 8, 1961	Rev. Puett resigned to accept pastorate in Crossnore, NC.
Feb. 26, 1961	"Pulpit Committee with approval of all members recommends a call be extended to Rev. Lee Roy Campbell to serve as pastor."
July 16, 1961	"Building Fund to be put in Building & Loan Association to draw more interest; \$9000 in Ahoskie like that in Edentonrest in Bank of Colerain."
1962	Chapel organ was placed in sanctuary. Elsie Lee was appointed organist.
Jan. 13, 1963	Mr. W. R. Lawrence offered a gift of \$20,000 to be used for construction of a new church building at Riverside.
Jan. 20, 1963	Report: Mr. Lawrence's gift \$5000 when contract is let and then \$5000 a year for 3 years.
Nov. 10, 1963	50 th Anniversary Celebration collected for Building Fund \$8785.15.
Feb. 16, 1964	New building to be erected directly behind present church.
April 4, 1964	Building Committee empowered to act by unanimous vote.
July 18, 1965	Rev. Campbell resigned to accept pastorate in Lavonia, Ga., effective Aug. 15.

Sept. 12, 1965	Board of Deacons and Building Committee recommend that we accept bid of Edenton Construction Company and White and Woodley Contractors of Ahoskie to erect new building at a cost of \$110,000. Building Fund has on hand \$41,714 with additional pledge of \$15,000;making a total of \$56,714. Voted unanimously to borrow enough to make \$110,000. Construction to begin immediately.
Oct. 3, 1965	Ground Breaking Service held for new church building.
Oct. 24, 1965	Rev. Henry Moore recommended by Pulpit Committeeafter much discussion recommendation tabled for further thought and discussion.
Feb. 11, 1966	Mrs. Nola Lawrence presented a check for \$15,000 to honor her deceased husband's pledge.
March 27, 1966	Rev. Coleman E. Thomas of Spring Hope issued a unanimous call to be our pastor as soon as possible.
April 24, 1966	Trustees empowered to negotiate a loan of \$50,000 to be paid in monthly installments of \$343.95 at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent interest.
June 15, 1966	Rev. Thomas and family moved in parsonage and "began preaching for us June 19, 1966."
July 10, 1966	Voted to buy new pews – cost approx. \$3300.
July 17, 1966	Contracted to purchase 24 pews for \$3811 from Southern Desk Co. of Hickory. Those interested could purchase a pew for \$164.80. All pews were purchased and marked with a plaque.
Fall 1966	Members of the Building Committee and others financed purchase and installation of carpet for the new sanctuary. New pulpit furniture was donated anonymously. The Martha Class requested that the old pulpit furniture be housed in their new classroom.
Nov. 13, 1966	Total cost of new building - \$120,484.22.
Dec. 15, 1966	Heating system for parsonage donated by C. W. Beasley Oil Co.
Dec. 18, 1966	Old church building to be sold for \$400 and demolished.
Jan. 1, 1967	Last service in old building. Services began in 1913. Used for 54 years.
	Last wedding in old church building was on November 22, 1964 Ellen Ann Finch and Donald R. Knight. Last funeral in old church building was on December 13, 1964 Fannie H. Miller.
Jan. 8, 1967	Service of Dedication for new sanctuary and education building. Lunch served in old church. A new pulpit Bible was presented that day by the grandchildren of Rev. Alonzo Finch.
	First wedding in new church was on January 7, 1967 Gail Miller and Roy F. Forehand. First funeral in new church was on January 8, 1967 J. D. Spruill.
1967-68	Budget \$10,433.

Oct. 29, 1968	West Chowan Association meeting held at Riverside.
1968	Clarence W. Williams honored with gift of two silver candelabra for twenty years of service as Sunday School superintendent.
1968-69	Budget \$10,495.
Oct. 26, 1969	Homecoming and Building Fund Day.
March 15, 1970	Voted to have Beasley install air conditioning system in church - \$5400.
Aug. 9, 1970	Rev. Thomas resigned to accept pastorate in Garland, NC, effective Aug. 30, 1970.
1970-71	Budget \$10,967.
February 1971	Rev. Adron A. Modlin called as pastor. Served until Nov. 12, 1972.
March 1972	Participated in Worldwide Mission conference. A different missionary spoke each night in the week.
March 18, 1972	Pastor's salary raised to \$8410 plus benefits.
March 21, 1972	Insurance on building to be increased from \$50,000 to \$90,000.
1972-73	Budget \$12,688.
June 24, 1973	Parsonage to be air-conditioned by Beasley Oil Company. Cost \$1800.
Sept. 9, 1973	Ordination service for Tim Mizelle.
1973-74	Budget \$14,417.
January 1974	Rev. Ronald L. Richardson assumes pastoral duties.
Jan. 27, 1974	Voted to organize Church Council to help plan and carry out duties of the church.
1974-75	Budget \$15,306.
April 21, 1974	Elected Lloyd Finch, Merton Britt, and Cynthia Richardson as messengers to Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas, Texas.
Oct. 27, 1974	Voted to contract for painting and conditioning ceiling in sanctuary.
1974	Oil painting of old church by Thenia H. Cullipher presented to the Church by Mrs. Cullipher and hung in the vestibule.
June 21, 1975	Young people raised \$331 at car wash for tennis courts.
June 22, 1975	Ground work completed on tennis court site.
1975-76	Budget \$15,397.
Nov. 16, 1975	Note Burning Service debt retired on a building valued in excess of \$130,000.

Jan. 11, 1976	Motion to enclose porch of parsonage.
March 26, 1976	Mission Conference held. Different missionary to speak each night.
July 3, 1976	Barbecue held in honor of U. S. Bicentennial.
Feb. 28, 1977	Vote delayed to complete tennis courts; further study needed.
March 28, 1977	Voted to complete tennis courts at a cost of \$6150.
June 6, 1977	Rev. Ron Richardson resigned effective June 19, 1977.
June 17, 1977	Voted to replace old cabinets and sink in parsonage.
Aug. 28, 1977	Pulpit Committee presented Rev. Chris Bower to be voted on by ballot. Voted not to extend him a call.
June 11, 1977	Voted to call Rev. Donald L. Clinton as pastor effective June 25, 1978.
November 1978	Elsie Lee, organist since 1962, resigned her position when she remarried and moved her church letter. Lynette Finch succeeded her as organist.
1978-79	Budget \$19,968.
Aug. 27, 1979	Voted to go forward with building addition to church.
1979-80	Budget \$22,370.
June 18, 1980	Steeple installed – \$3867.
1981-82	Budget \$22,875.
Jan. 10, 1982	Voted to purchase pew cushions - \$2676.
April 25, 1982	Voted to build a 30' x 60' Fellowship Hall on site of old school.
June 27, 1982	"Dispose of old Riverside School House in best interest of church."
March 6, 1983	Voted by ballot to build new building on graveyard-side of church citing advantages of joining new building with existing building per original plans instead of on school house site. 76 total votes: 55 yes, 15 no, 4 did not matter, 1 undecided, 1 either way.
March 13, 1983	Voted to purchase 2 acres to enlarge cemetery and build a ball field. $$2000$ to be taken from General Fund.
Fall 1983	The ladies of the church sponsored a Bazaar with proceeds to be used to furnish the kitchen. Folding tables for the seating area were donated by church members. Cohen Evans purchased a commercial range for the kitchen.
Jan. 1, 1984	Dedication service held in new Fellowship Hall.
January 29, 1984	New Yamaha piano purchased for sanctuary with donation by Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Finch and other contributions.
Aug. 26, 1984	Old church bell to be erected in steel frame beside church.

July 21, 1985	Church licensed Woody Copeland to preach.
Oct. 6, 1985	Rev. Donald Clinton retired.
Dec. 8, 1985	Voted to approve Pulpit Committee's recommendation to call Rev. James Buchanan to fill pastorate effective Jan. 5, 1986.
January 1986	Silver urn given in honor of Clyde and Margaret Miller by their children.
April 22, 1986	Voted to hold quarterly conference on Wednesday nights.
Oct. 1, 1986	Committee elected to draw up church constitution and bylaws.
Dec. 6, 1986	Voted a "big thank-you" to Libby and Dianne Jones for lovely nativity set.
April 1987	Voted to install 50-watt sound system at a cost of \$900 and to purchase carpet for hallway.
May 31, 1987	Roger Cullipher presented to the church a new Baldwin organ as a gift from his late wife, Thenia H. Cullipher.
June 28, 1987	Special service held in memory of Thenia Cullipher.
July 1, 1987	Voted to reinstate Church Council.
Aug. 30, 1987	Voted on church constitution: 53 against; 52 for.
Sept. 27, 1987	Motion disapproved to request termination of pastor.
Oct. 18, 1987	50 new Baptist Hymnals were given in memory of Lloyd Finch and George Pratt by Lynette Finch and Rhodes Pratt.
1987-88	Budget \$42,890.
Dec. 10, 1987	Voted to accept resignation of Rev. James Buchanan effective last Sunday of the month.
April 3, 1988	Rev. Greg DeMarco, U.S. Navy chaplain, became Interim Pastor.
1988-89	Budget \$42,175.
October 1988	Voted to repair roof, install air vents, make other repairs to prevent mold and mildew on ceiling of sanctuary.
Dec. 21, 1988	Christmas program and celebration of 75th anniversary of church.
March 19, 1989	Church constitution and bylaws adopted. Vote: 54 in favor; 7 against.
March 21, 1989	Rev. Charles J. Hulin, III, began pastorate.
April 9, 1989	Voted to construct a storage building behind parsonage. Estimated cost \$3500 to \$5000. Voted to relieve pastor of pulpit duties on every 5 th Sunday and conduct quarterly business meeting at that time.

July 30, 1989	Voted to repair parsonage bathroom and construct cement walks to parsonage. Also, to dig deep well for water system for church and parsonage. Storage building completed.
1989-90	Budget \$45,101.
April 21, 1990	All graves in cemetery marked except two; these to be erected. Voted to use money from sale of church bus to complete children's playground. U. S. flag flown over the Capitol in Washington presented to church by Bennie Myers. Voted to clean sanctuary ceiling of mold and mildew and install fans.
June 26, 1990	Voted not to repair existing air conditioning system, but to install 6 new units to provide separate cooling systems for sanctuary, classrooms, Fellowship Hall.
June 30, 1990	Decreased number on Deacon Board from 8 to 5. Cemetery restoration complete; all graves marked.
Aug. 2, 1991	Approved construction of recreation shelter behind Fellowship Hall at an estimated cost of \$1500. Richard Harrell built and donated swings and picnic tables for the shelter, and constructed a deck for the parsonage.
Sept. 2, 1992	Plaque mounted in Fellowship Hall as a memorial to W. R. Lawrence and his benevolence to Riverside Baptist Church.
Sept. 27, 1992	Darrell Adams contributed \$5000 toward renovation of tennis courts. Recreation Committee raised remaining \$8000 for completion.
October 1992	Participated in World Missions Conference.
March 1993	Renovation of tennis courts completed.
Sept. 12, 1993	Celebrated 80 th anniversary of Riverside. 341 persons registered.
Oct. 3, 1993	Motion made to accept bid of \$13,243 for cleaning and renovation of sanctuary, not to include cleaning of the steeple.
Feb. 20, 1994	Voted to accept retirement resignation of Rev. Charles Hulin effective Sept. 30, 1994.
April 26, 1994	West Chowan Association met at Riverside with Capeharts and Greens Cross Churches as co-hosts.
June 5, 1994	Kick-off for Summer Youth Program with Capeharts and Merry Hill Churches. Jan Yow, youth worker.
July 1994	TV/VCR unit purchased with \$600 contribution by Lynette Finch and remaining \$600 from church family.
Aug. 13, 1994	Tri-church picnic for Jan Yow at Riverside. Youth program very successful for all 3 churches. Youth activities to continue coordinated by Rev. Don Williams of Capeharts.
Sept. 25, 1994	Covered dish luncheon in honor of Rev. Hulin's retirement on Sept. 30, 1994.
Oct. 2, 1994	Rev. Don Clinton approved as Interim Pastor.

Nov. 6, 1994	Voted to offer a pastor annual salary of \$18,000 plus a \$2000 contribution annually to the Pastor's Annuity that is matched by \$2000 from the Southern Baptist Convention. Parsonage to be provided rent-free; pastor to pay his own utilities and health insurance.
Dec. 4, 1994	Voted to cover exterior of parsonage with vinyl siding.
Dec. 11, 1994	Rev. Dennis J. Conner called as pastor.
Jan. 1, 1995	Rev. Conner commenced ministry.
Jan. 8, 1995	Rev. Conner installed as pastor by Rev. Kenneth Gibson, Association Director of Missions.
Jan. 15, 1995	Voted to purchase new storm doors and blinds for the parsonage.
Jan. 28, 1995	Accepted bid by Gary Hughes for new heating/ac system for parsonage.
January 1995	New refrigerator for parsonage donated by Leonard and Agnes Farless.
February 1995	Parsonage vacated by Rev. and Mrs. Hulin and interior work begun. Contract work awarded to White's Cleaning Service. Accepted bid from Roanoke Rapids Cleaning Service to clean and paint church steeple.
March 1995	Acknowledgement of bedroom suite donated for parsonage by Mrs. Joe Miller. in 1950.
April 1995	Ceiling fans installed in sanctuary. Donated by Tom and Libby Jones, Robert and Diann Jones, Frances Byrum, Woody Copeland, Roger Cullipher, B. C. Evans, Lynette Finch, Richard and Sarah Lynn Harrell, Ruth Matthews, Rogeania Hughes Rollert, Raleigh and Sue Baker, Mack and Mildred Williams.
March 1996	Separate air conditioning unit for pastor's study installed.
Ca. 1995	A gift of two display cases for the sanctuary in memory of U. S. Hassell by Elizabeth Hassell and sons. One unit houses the silver communion set donated by the women of Colerain Baptist Church in 1914. The other displays the cornerstone and its contents that the Colerain Masonic Lodge laid during construction of the old church. Clyde Miller cleaned and polished the cornerstone and prepared the artifacts and documents for display.
April 1996	Church was incorporated.
May 1996	Interior of church was painted.
June 1996	Bequest of \$1000 received from estate of B. C. (Cohen) Evans.
March 1997	Bequest of \$5375 from the estate of Dorsey L Miller. Money used for new front door, flooring for vestibule, and blinds.
June 1997	Woody Copeland presented to West Chowan Baptist Association to be examined, and upon their recommendation, ordained as a minister of the gospel.
March 1998	Rev. Conner submitted resignation effective May 18, 1998.
November 1998	Rev. James Hester of Conway called as Interim Minister.

January 1999	Reception room in front vestibule furnished in memory of Leonard Farless by Agnes, Gene, Sarah Lynn, and grandchildren.
July 1999	Purchased new Canon copier.
August 1999	Installed new sound system in sanctuary.
August 1999	New roof on parsonage and Fellowship Hall.
October 3, 1999	Rev. William A. (Al) Jarrell commenced ministry.
October 1999	Reception room on north side of vestibule furnished in memory of Roger Cullipher by his family.
February 2000	Furnishings for pastor's study given in memory of Troy Perry by Imogene and children.
March 2000	Carport was installed at the parsonage courtesy of an anonymous donor.
Spring 2000	Laptop computer and printer given in memory of Lloyd G. and Fannie M. Finch by Lynette Finch.
April 2001	Revised church constitution approved.
August 2001	Donation to Edgewood Baptist Church to be used on renovation following damage from Hurricane Floyd in September 1999.
Fall 2001	200 Baptist hymnals (1991 ed.) purchased with memorials to Katherine Farless and Spencer Adams
Spring 2002	Pledged to donate \$1000 per year for five years to the Wycliffe Bible ministry.
August 2002	Metal picnic tables presented in memory of Hezzie, Nellie Mae and Billy Mizelle, Lucas Lloyd Perry, Lloyd and Fannie Simmons Finch, Glenn and Louise Williams, Myrtle Adams, Milton Cullipher. Commemorative plaque hung in Fellowship Hall.
Sept. 2002	Duck Williams honored for 35 years of faithful service as custodian.
November 2002	Kevin Copeland licensed to preach.
April 2003	Renovated the Library. Painted adjoining classrooms. Concrete work around

We offer sincerest apologies if any donation or memorial was omitted. Our information was derived from the official minutes of the church and reports from individuals.

the front of the building. Commercial icemaker purchased.

90th anniversary celebration.

Sept. 14, 2003

Revised and updated August 2003 by the 90th Anniversary History Committee - - Carroll Britt, Lynette Finch, Bonnie Jordan, and James Matthews.

Pastors of Riverside Baptist Church

September 13, 1913 - December, 1913	Rev. J. O. Aldermar
January, 1914 - September 14, 1918	Rev. Sam B. Barnes
February 1, 1919 - January 1, 1923	Rev. J. Herman Barnes
January 1, 1924 - November, 1928	Rev. Alonzo Finch
January 1, 1929 - December 1, 1930	Rev. H. G. Bryant
January 1, 1931 - September, 1931	Rev. E. Y. Poole
September 25, 1931- December, 1933.	Rev. R. L. Bolton
January 12, 1934 - December, 1941	Rev. L. M. Dixon
January 1, 1942 - October 12, 1943	Rev. D. F. Bobbit
February 1, 1944 - May 30, 1949	Rev. A. P. Mustian
June 1, 1949 - February 24, 1952	Rev. R. Tom Greene
June 1, 1952 - November 11, 1953	Rev. Robert Trexler
March 14, 1954 - July, 1959.	Rev. Eugene Johns
November 1, 1959 - February, 1961	Rev. J. R. Puett
March, 1961 - September 15, 1965	Rev. L. R. Campbell
June 19, 1966 - August 30, 1970	Rev. Coleman E. Thomas
February, 1971 - November, 1972.	Rev. Adron Modlin
January, 1974 - June, 1977	Rev. Ron Richardson
June 25, 1978 – October 6, 1985	Rev. Don Clinton
January 5, 1986 – December 6, 1987	Rev. James Buchanan
April, 1988 – March 5, 1989 (Interim)	Rev. Greg DeMarco
March 12, 1989 – September 30, 1994	Rev. Charles J. Hulin, III
January 1, 1995 – May 17, 1998	Rev. Dennis Conner
November 9, 1998 – September 26, 1999 (Interim)	Rev. James Hester
October 3, 1999	Rev. William A. Jarrell

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History of Riverside Baptist Church

